

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing Of Claims:**

1. (Currently amended) An electric heating element with radiant tube comprising a radiation pipe [(1)] and an electric heating element (2, 3) contained in said pipe, wherein the heating element has legs that run to and fro in the pipe, and wherein the heating element is connected at one end of the pipe close to a furnace wall with electric power outlets through which electric current is fed to the element, wherein the element is supported in the pipe by ceramic discs [(9)] that are provided with through-penetrating holes through which the legs of the elements extend, and wherein two elements [(2, 3)] are disposed sequentially in said radiation pipe along its long axis, ~~wherein characterized in that~~ a central rod [(5)] extends through the centre of the radiation pipe [(1)] from its one end [(8)] to its opposite other end [(11)] and ~~wherein in that~~ the central rod [(5)] runs through the centre of each ceramic disc [(9)]; ~~wherein in that~~ the central rod [(5)] forms an electric power outlet for at least one of said elements [(3)]; ~~wherein in that~~ a connection region [(12)] for said two elements in the radiation pipe is situated between the elements [(2,3)] in [[the]] a longitudinal direction of the pipe [(1)], wherein respective elements are connected to their respective power outlets [(4 – 6)] in said connection region [(12)]; ~~wherein in that~~ stop means [(13 – 17)] are provided which function to generally retain ceramic discs [(18 – 23)] present in the connection region in a direction along the long axis of the pipe; and ~~wherein in that~~ supportive ceramic discs [(9)] for supporting respective elements are placed at a distance from said connection region [(12)], wherein at least some of said ceramic discs [(14, 15)] are able to move freely along the

pipe [[(1)]] to an extent allowed by element-related stop means [[(27)]] as respective elements expand or contract in response to a change in [[the]] temperature of said elements.

2. (Currently amended) An electric heating element according to Claim 1, wherein e  
~~h a r a c t e r i s e d i n t h a t~~ the power outlet or the power outlets [[(4, 6)]] that runs/run to  
respective elements [[(2, 3)]] from said one end of the pipe to form an electric circuit with the  
central rod [[(5)]] extends/extend through the ceramic discs [[(9)]] in question .

3. (Currently amended) An electric heating element according to Claim 1 ~~or 2, e-ha~~  
~~r a c t e r i s e d i n t h a t~~ wherein ceramic sleeves [[(13 – 17)]] are disposed on the outside of and  
along the central rod [[(5)]] . wherein said sleeves are together adapted to space apart the ceramic  
discs [[(9)]] in addition to spacing apart the ceramic discs [[(14, 15)]] situated at respective ends  
of the legs of said elements [[(2, 3)]] at the ends [[(8, 11)]] of the pipe.

4. (Currently amended) An electric heating element according to Claim 1, ~~2 or 3, e~~  
~~h a r a c t e r i s e d i n t h a t~~ wherein the ceramic discs [[(15, 15)]] located at the ends of the legs of  
respective elements run along the outside of said sleeves [[(13)]] .

5. (Currently amended) An electric heating element according to Claim 1, ~~2, 3 or 4,~~  
~~e h a c a r t e r i s e d i n t h a t~~ wherein the leg is short-circuited at at least certain ends [[(26)]]  
thereof with the aid of an electric conductor [[(27)]] placed close to said ceramic disc [[(9)]] and  
on the opposite side of the ceramic disc relative to the leg end [[(26)]] .

6. (Currently amended) An electric heating element according to Claim 1, ~~2, 3, 4 or 5, characterised in that wherein~~ a ceramic disc [[(28)]] is fastened to the central rod [[(5)]] at its free non-current-receiving end.

7. (Currently amended) An electric heating element according to Claim 1, ~~2, 3, 4, 5 or 6 characterised in that wherein~~ the radiation pipe [[(1)]] is a closed pipe.

8. (Currently amended) An electric heating element according to Claim 1, ~~2, 3, 4, 5, 6 or 7 characterised in that wherein~~ two radiation pipes [[(1)]] are placed axially one after the other in a furnace space, such as to cover essentially the width of the furnace.

9. (Currently amended) An electric heating element according to claim 1, any one of the preceding Claims, characterised in that wherein the element [[(2)]] located furthest from the furnace wall [[(7)]] with a power outlet is powered through said central rod [[(5)]] and a separate lead-in [[(35)]]; and in that the other element is powered with the aid of two separate lead-ins [[(36, 37)]].

10. (Currently amended) An electric heating element according to claim 1, any one of Claims 1-8, characterised in that wherein both elements [[(2, 3)]] are powered through said central rod [[(5)]] and a separate lead-in for each element.